



March 2018

Last month

Holsworthy Spring Convention:

On 24th February Holsworthy Branch held their Spring Convention. Among the speakers were Professor Steve Martin, University of Salford speaking on 'Exotic Travels of a Bee Researcher' and Roger Patterson, BIBBA speaking on 'Honey Bees in the Wild – What we learn from them'.

Beekeeper's Annual Dinner

It was a busy day, because in the evening we also had our branch annual dinner at Wrangaton Golf Club. Approximately 20 people turned out on the evening to enjoy good food with pleasant company and to hear one of Jeremy's jokes. Thank you very much to Jeremy for organising the event (and the joke!).

This month

Devon Beekeepers' Day: 10.00am on Saturday 3 March at the Bridge Suite, ISCA Centre, Summer Lane, Whipton, Exeter, EX4 8NT. Guest speaker will be John De Carteret, Vice President of Jersey Beekeepers' Association, who will be talking on 'Living with the Asian Hornet'. Martyn Hocking will also be there to answer questions. There will also be a raffle, with the chance to win a beehive. Further details on website link: <http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Starting the Season: 7.30pm on Thursday 8 March at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA. Guest Speaker Claire Densley will tell us all we need to be doing right now to get off to a good start for the season.

Beekeeping Beginners Course: 7.00pm on Thursday 15 March at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA. This session concentrates on the Beekeeping Year.

Asian Hornet Action Team, Kick Off Meeting: 7.00pm at Clay Lane Apiary, Chudleigh Knighton, TQ13 0NH. For further details contact Joe McGuckin on swbrickworksvcs@aol.com

Taunton & District Auction of Second hand beekeeping equipment: Auction starts at 2.00pm on Sunday 25 March at Ruishton Village Hall, Taunton, TA3 5JD. Items received from 10.00am. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Car parking is free.

Coming Up

BBKA Spring Convention: Friday 13 April to Sunday 15 April at Harper Adams University, Shropshire

Branch Apiary Open Day: 2.00pm on Sunday 22 April at Old School Farm, Dartington, Totnes, TQ9 6EB. We have been having a bit of a clear out at the apiary and also getting some new beehives set up. Come along and see what we have been up to as we open up the apiary for the season. There will also be a Taranov demonstration.

Viruses: 7.30pm on Thursday 10 May at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA. Guest Speaker Martin Hann will tell us all we need to know about viruses.

County Show: Thursday 17 May to Saturday 19 May at Westpoint, Exeter. We are planning on putting together a display explaining the differences between wasps and bees. If you would like to help with making the display, or manning the event, please contact Lilah on lilahkillock@btinternet.com Those helping out on the day receive a free pass for the show.

Pollen: Date to be confirmed for June. Guest speaker, Richard Ball will tell us about his pollen research.

Totnes & District Show: Sunday 29 July at Berry Farm, Berry Pomeroy, Totnes, TQ9 6LG. The branch will have a stand at the show.

Kingsbridge Show: Saturday 1 September at Borough Farm, Kingsbridge, TQ9 7QP. The branch will have a stand at the show.

Notices

Asian Hornet

Ken and Jill Beagley have been busy collating the following information, which could fill a whole edition of our branch newsletter all on its own.

There has now been over 3,500 viewings of Martyn Hocking's Asian Hornet talk. The You Tube link to the film is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOnb3R2ozz4&t=69s>

There has now been over 700 viewings of Colin Lodge's national AHAT initiative. You Tube link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdSvkii6dXA&t=3s>

The DBKA guidance protocols are available on the DBKA website.

<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/asianhornet/guidance-for-beekeepers/>

<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/asianhornet/guidance-for-branches/>

<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/asianhornet/how-to-obtain-a-sample/>

The Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) website is now online

<http://www.ahat.org.uk>

Colin Lodge's AHAT article is from page 17 in the February 2018 edition of 'Beekeeping' Journal at:

<http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BEEKEEPING/2018/2018-FebruaryWeb.pdf>

Finally, check out the new Newton Abbot BKA website's AH Guidance at:

<http://www.nabk.org.uk/asian-hornet-guidance.html>

Our thanks go once again to Ken and Jill Beagley for undertaking this work. If you would like to help establish an Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) within the branch please contact Joe McGuckin on swbrickworksvcs@aol.com

Apiary Site Available

Apiary site on the oil seed rape available at Longcomb, half way between Totnes and Paignton. Contact Mr Dennis on 01803 866575.

Community Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey

Buckfast Abbey will be continuing their beekeeping workshops, starting in March 2018. The first session in March is 'Beyond Beginners', which is four independent afternoon sessions for beekeepers who have kept bees for more than a season and who wish to improve their knowledge and skills. Cost is £5.00 per session. Full details of this course and other courses can be found on the website www.buckfast.org.uk However, if you would have any questions then, please contact Clare Densley direct on cdensley@buckfast.org.uk or Mob: 07944 504283.

Hembury Bee Supplies

Agents for the main manufacturers and can supply all your beekeeping needs. Contact John Harler, Outer Finches, Hembury Cock Hill, Buckfast, TQ11 0HN. Please phone or Email before you visit. Tel: 01364 642517. Email: fire221@btinternet.com

Swarm Collectors

It is that time of year when we need to think about swarm collectors for the coming summer. If you would like to register as a swarm collector on the DBKA website and BBKA website, please let Grant know and email him at bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

In order to register, you need to be a full or partner member of Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers and have passed your Basic Assessment. Your personal contact details will also be posted on the DBKA and BBKA websites.

Branch Committee

President: Rod Saffery, 01803 762532, rodsaffery@gmail.com

Chairman: Graham Brown, 01364 642787, graham.brown@gmx.us

Vice-Chairman: Jeremy Wells, 01364 72180, jeremy.ena@gmail.com

Secretary: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Harler, 01364 642517, fire221@btinternet.com

Branch Trustee: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

Other members of the Committee: Annie Hill, John Hart, Lilah Killock, Joe Mc Guckin, Kevin Gillard, Tammy Skinner

Branch Website

<http://beekeepingsouthdevon.uk/>

<http://www.totnesandkingsbridgebeekeepers.com/>

Need help? Ken Basterfield holds the highest UK bee-keeping qualification, the National Diploma in Beekeeping, and if you feel in need of some instant advice, you can telephone him on 01404 815885. Two of our most experienced beekeepers, John Harler in Buckfast (01364 642517) and Jeremy Wells in South Brent (01364 72180), are happy to be contacted at short notice by any member needing practical help and/or advice.



Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers is a branch of Devon Beekeepers Association
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